

A Healthy Project - The Schleswig-Holstein Health Card

 **ORGA**
The Smart Card Integrator



The Schleswig-Holstein Health Card has been in use as a medical insurance card with extended functionality in the model region of Flensburg since March 2002. It is designed to improve the quality of medical treatment, ensure more secure handling of data in emergencies and, in a further step, to enhance medication security. The initiator is the Ministry of Health of Schleswig-Holstein. Together with partners from the region, ORGA is providing project consulting, smart card technology, system integration services and multifunctional smart card terminals.

Germany

Health



Schleswig-Holstein Health Card

Overview

The Schleswig-Holstein Health Card is the prototype of an electronic patient ID card. This model, which is unique nationwide, was officially launched in March 2002 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health of Schleswig-Holstein. The first phase involved the integration of doctor's practices, two clinics and a pharmacy in the Flensburg region. The card was developed by the project group "Customer and Patient" of the Schleswig-Holstein Health Initiative. Its partners include hospitals in the Flensburg region, the network of doctor's practices in Flensburg, the Fachhochschule Flensburg, the German Association of Panel Doctors, the health insurer AOK Schleswig-Holstein, the PVS vendor MediSoftware and the smart card producers PAVCard and ORGA as well as T-Com, Oracle, Siemens, ICW and other industry partners.

The card is designed to improve the quality of treatment for patients and the cooperation between general practitioners, specialists and the medical staff of clinics. The benefits for these parties include more efficient workflows, fewer duplicate examinations and greater transparency of services and costs. The Schleswig-Holstein Health Card stores important medical data, such as medications, blood groups, allergies or operations. In the future, it will also be possible to store notes on and references to the treatment of illnesses, image archives and databases. What is special about this project is that it is the first to use a card that stores comprehensive information about the patients themselves.

In the second phase of pilot operation, additional practical applications will be tested - for example the interaction of medications as part of drug safety measures. The expansion of the project to cover the whole of the Flensburg region (170 practices, 2 hospitals) and later the entire state of Schleswig-Holstein is planned for the third phase. By the time the project ends, plans call for it to be possible to read and write data from and to the Schleswig-Holstein Health Card with various applications (PVS, KISS) using the international data transfer standard XML - and all that in various languages.

In early 2004, Schleswig-Holstein made application to become a test region for the rollout of the new German health card.

ORGA's Contribution

ORGA, one of the first partners from industry to participate in the Schleswig-Holstein Health Initiative, not only provides project know-how, but also smart card technology, system integration services and multifunctional smart card terminals (complying with the MKT standard). The idea became a reality in less than 12 months. Plans for the future also call for the implementation of an Health Professional Card (HPC) for doctors and pharmacies, for example, and a Patient Data Card (PDC) based on ORGA's MICARDO® operating system. ORGA will thus be enabling the interoperability of various smart card functionalities in a single operating system. Integration of the card terminals with existing practice management systems was also implemented by ORGA.



Benefits of the smart card system

...for insured persons

- High level of data security; patients have control over their data at all times
- Immediate availability of the most important data in emergency situations
- Avoidance of unnecessary duplicate examinations (e.g. X-rays)
- Reliable documentation of medical history and prescribed medications
- Avoidance of interaction between prescribed medications

...for health insurers

- Avoidance of duplicate treatment, resulting in cost savings
- Transparency for patients and service providers
- Optimization of work processes
- Improved communication between all parties

Technical data of the Schleswig-Holstein Health Card

Technology: ORGA's MICARDO® system
Memory: 32 KB EEPROM

